

# Radio tower is big step forward for state

Independent Record | Posted: Friday, August 28, 2009 12:15 am

[http://www.helenair.com/news/opinion/editorial/article\\_25f600f0-9393-11de-a84f-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.helenair.com/news/opinion/editorial/article_25f600f0-9393-11de-a84f-001cc4c03286.html)

The Montana National Guard helicopter hoisted a 20,000-pound building to a site northeast of Great Falls last week.

Next came microwave dishes and other radio equipment.

The flights were part of a \$1.9 million Air Force project that will improve communications among different emergency and law enforcement agencies during wildfires and other emergencies.

It will eventually be integrated into the Montana Interoperability Project, which has as its goal seamless communications between law-enforcement agencies and emergency personnel around the state.

Every time major wildfires begin in Montana, the need for better communication between respondents quickly becomes apparent. So thumbs up to what could be an important step toward ameliorating that problem.